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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/784,199

02/24/2004

Masahiko Ito

15-046

9253

23400

7590

03/20/2006

POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC
12040 SOUTH LAKES DRIVE
SUITE 101
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

DANG, ROBERT TRONG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2838

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/784,199	ITO, MASAHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert T. Dang	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/24/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/24/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kishi (JP02001178118A).

As to claim 1, Kishi discloses in figure 1, a power supply device for supplying electric power to an electrical circuit, the power supply device comprising: a power source (1); a voltage comparator (20) connected to the power source for comparing a voltage of the power source with a predetermined reference voltage and for outputting a control signal when the power source voltage is higher than the reference voltage; and a protecting switch disposed in a circuit between the power source and the electrical circuit, the protecting switch being turned off when the control signal is supplied from the voltage comparator to the protecting switch, thereby protecting the electrical circuit from overvoltage (see abstract).

As to claim 2, Kishi discloses in figure 1, further comprising a voltage booster for boosting the power source voltage to a predetermined voltage level, the voltage booster being disposed in a circuit connecting the power source and the electrical circuit (see abstract).

As to claim 3, Kishi discloses in figure 1, wherein: the protecting switch (14) is disposed between the power source (1) and the voltage booster (coil (13) and diode (15)) (see abstract).

As to claim 4, Kishi discloses in figure 1, wherein: the protecting switch is disposed between the voltage booster.

As to claim 5, Kishi discloses in figure 1, wherein: the protecting switch is disposed between the voltage booster and the electrical circuit.

As to claim 6, Kishi discloses in figure 1, wherein the voltage booster comprises a booster coil (13), a booster switch (14) for switching current flowing through the booster coil at a high speed, and a rectifying diode (15) for allowing current to flow only in one direction from the booster coil to the electrical circuit; and the protecting switch also functions as the rectifying diode (see abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishi (JP02001178118A) in view of Matsui (JP 08310337 A)

As to claim 5, Kishi discloses as the limitations discussed above; however, he does not disclose the airbag system having an airbag to be inflated with gas upon

detection of a collision and an igniting circuit for igniting a device for generating the gas, wherein electrical power is supplied from the power supply device defined in claim 1 to the igniting circuit. Matsui teaches in his invention an airbag system having an airbag to be inflated with gas upon detection of a collision and an igniting circuit for igniting a device for generating the gas, wherein electrical power is supplied from the power supply device defined in claim 1 to the igniting circuit (see abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device and incorporate the airbag system of Matsui into the booster circuit of Kishi in order to prevent misfiring of the airbag in the event of an over voltage condition.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert T. Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-8326. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl D. Easthom can be reached on 571-272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RTD



Adolf Deneke Bernano
Primary Examiner